

Contemporary Psychoanalysis

CONTRARY TO A STILL prevailing mythology which depicts the psychoanalyst as an ivory tower isolate, the American psychoanalyst is less inclined in recent years to devote his full time to the practice of psychoanalysis. More often he is also involved in any number of activities: You will find accredited psychoanalysts teaching in medical schools and residency programs and serving as consultants in social work agencies and school health programs. They can be found observing infants and nursery school children, treating psychotics in hospitals, engaged in group therapy and deeply involved in social and community psychiatry. Scratch a consultant to any city, county, state or Federal social agency and you may find a psychoanalyst. What can be readily seen is a closer working relationship with clinical psychiatry as well as the application of psychoanalysis to the rest of the humanities.

Predictions have been made that future psychoanalysts and psychiatrists will be engaged almost entirely in coordinating, supervising and educational activities with very little time available to do therapy. Psychoanalytic therapy might then be reserved almost entirely for the professional.

Psychoanalysis is experiencing a host of professional, political and social conflicts which are affecting many organizations today. For example, the problems of the Psychoanalytic Training Institutes include: the question of affiliation with a university or medical school, methods of applicant selection and prediction and disagreement in matters of theory and technique.

Psychoanalysis is an investigative method, a psychotherapeutic technique and a collection of data and theory. That there is a lessening of new "couch research" is accepted but this has been countered by research in other fields, especially those of developmental psychology, sociology, anthropology, law, history and other behavioral sciences. Few in the field doubt that one day psychoanalysis and brain neurophysiology will be bridged. Meanwhile human phantasy and

emotions will continue to require psychic measures to deal with psychic ills.

Psychoanalysis remains in the service of those who seek to defend man from the current lethal de-humanizing effects of the machine.

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Evoked Cortical Potentials in Hyperkinetic Children

AUDITORY EVOKED CORTICAL potentials were studied in a group of 31 hyperactive children and in 21 normal control subjects matched for age, sex and I.Q. Most hyperkinetic children were found to have abnormally low amplitudes of auditory evoked potentials.

In hyperactive children large amplitude evoked potentials and lots of slow wave activity in the resting EEG predicted a good clinical response to stimulant medication.

Increased slow wave activity and large amplitude evoked potentials can be interpreted as an index of low cortical excitability. Reduction in both of these measures in response to stimulant medication supports this theory. Stimulant medications thus seem to act as stimulants, resulting in more cortical inhibitory control enabling the child to be behaviorally in better control of both motor output and sensory input.

There are few neurophysiological correlates of the hyperkinetic child syndrome. These techniques may assist in delineation of the syndrome and help select the proper mode of treatment for the disorder.

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